

Testimony IN SUPPORT of H.B. 6615, An Act Concerning Dog Racing

I would like to thank the General Law Committee for the opportunity to testify on behalf of H.B. 6615

Greyhound racing is intrinsically cruel, in that greyhounds are often denied proper veterinary care and, when not racing, are left for up to 23 hours a day in their kennels. Racing takes an immense toll on their bodies and greyhounds regularly suffer from broken legs, as well as broken backs, head trauma and electrocution. They are forced to run in all sorts of weather, both hot and cold, in temperatures that far exceed their capabilities and that cross the line into outright abuse.

To train greyhounds, live lure training has been used. Live lure training involves using a live animal--such as a rabbit or possums--and riling the dogs up to encourage them to chase and kill the small animal. While it is illegal in the U.S., it's nonetheless used in secret, as many documented instances have shown.

Right now, only one state in the country has greyhound tracks left, West Virginia. Several states around Connecticut--Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New Hampshire--have recently made greyhound racing illegal. The other states that are near us--New York, Vermont, New Jersey--have all made it illegal as well. Greyhound racing is illegal in nearly the entire U.S. Connecticut is one of only eight states where it is not.

Racing tracks around the world are shutting down due to public disapproval. While Connecticut has no operational greyhound racing tracks, there is nothing stopping it from coming back into our state at a future time. This legal loophole should be closed so that the "sport" has no chance of resurfacing here.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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